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## FIELD ON PLUMBING INSPECTION AND OFFICE OF CITY PHYSICIAN

H. Gooding Field, in his report as expert on municipal affairs to the Chamber of Commerce, has the following criticism of the operation of the plumbing ordinance and the office of city physician:

### Filling Out Applications for Permits.

The application for plumbing permits, which calls for an abstract of specifications and other technical information, instead of being filled out by the master plumber in an intelligent manner, as should be the case, is generally left to an incompetent employee. This practically results in a complete rewriting of the application by the office of the plumbing inspector. If it were made compulsory that these applications be attended to by the plumber himself, much labor of this department would be saved.

### Licensing of Plumbers.

As will be explained later, the ordinance establishing rules and regulations for the plumbing and drainage of buildings and construction of house sewers has been rendered useless as a preventive measure by the amendment of its salient features. The amendment of Section 2 of the above ordinance which provides for the licensing of plumbers in the city and county has resulted in the most incompetent plumbing work done, and more than doubling the work of the plumbing inspector's office. The following copy of one of a number of records in this office will illustrate the point:

Record No. 2295. Date November 15th, 1911.

Owner—Territory of Hawaii.  
Plumber—Alameda Mattos Company.

Location—Kalihi Valley, Waikiki side of Road School.

Occupied as Date of Inspections.—School. November 18, 1911; December 1, 1911; December 2, 1911; December 4, 1911; February 2, 1912; March 12, 1912, and the inspection is not yet completed.

If a competent plumber, who had been examined as to his proficiency in his trade and licensed accordingly had been engaged for this work the inspection of the job—which is not a difficult one—could have been completed by the plumbing inspector in two visits—one on the "roughing in" test, and the final examination when the fixtures were set. This is not a solitary case of incompetence, as over one-third of the inspector's time is now occupied in remedying errors in construction. In many cases, on the other hand, where competent plumbers have been engaged, they deputize the work to their men, with equally unsatisfactory results to the city.

### Plumbing Ordinance Defeats Own Purpose.

Section 29 of the plumbing ordinance provides that "All persons, firms, or corporations shall, within three days after the completion of any plumbing work, notify the plumbing inspector thereof." Section 30 of the ordinance provides a remedy for violation of this provision. These sections have now become dead letters, and cases are frequent where three months have elapsed before such notification has been made to the city plumbing inspector. If this official followed up all delinquents in this respect it would mean the devoting of the whole of his time to this work alone. As the matter stands at present, the ordinance allows incompetent workmen to pose as plumbers, whose responsibility would appear to end after their work is paid for by the property owner. If the plumber was licensed and compelled to show the property owner a signed release from the plumbing inspector before being paid for his work, it would compel the notification for a final inspection. The present plumbing ordinance defeats its own purpose.

### Control of Sewers and Water by City.

There is much duplication of work between the Territorial board of public works and the city and county in regard to sewer and water extension. The duties now undertaken by both these departments renders it difficult to draw the dividing line absolutely and friction must inevitably result. The city and county plumbing and house drain inspection should be made divisions of a department of sewers and water works, under a local board of public works, as recommended in this report.

### Deduction of Operating Costs.

With the consolidation of all the above work in a local board of public works, as recommended, the present operating expenses of that branch of the Territorial board of public works referring to sewers and water works could be reduced at least thirty per cent.

### Building Inspection.

The duties of the building inspectors, which are also performed by the plumbing inspector, include supervision over the erection, construction, alteration, repair and removal of buildings and other structures within the city and county. As the number of buildings erected within these limits are rapidly increasing, the ex-

tent of the economical operation and efficiency of this division will only be seen after the requirements of the building and sanitation ordinances have been enforced for a longer period than since their passage in June, 1911.

**CITY AND COUNTY PHYSICIAN.**  
This is another department where conflict of authority between the Territorial and local authorities is costing the taxpayers a considerable sum of money.

Paramount authority over health matters of the islands is vested in the Territorial board of health, but a costly error was made in not placing the responsibility for the enforcement of health rules and regulations exclusively with the same board. So far as the delegated powers of the city and county physician's office are concerned, the present law is one without a sanction. As an illustration, the Territorial health board has alone the authority to issue licenses to the attendants of the public markets, and then only after inspection by its representatives. The Territorial authorities, before issuing such licenses, and as a condition of the same, made it compulsory that screens be installed, as a sanitary preventive measure. After the issuance of the licenses, as above, it was left to the city and county to see that the screens were used for the purpose for which they were intended. The city authorities not being empowered by the ordinance to enforce the Territorial ruling—and which the courts could sustain—they are compelled to submit to open violation of the order, resulting in a grave menace to the health of the community. Such a condition as the above would not be tolerated in any other place, and more particularly so in a tropical country, as the sanitation of public markets is made the first consideration in all progressive communities.

### Indigent Emergency Cases.

It was intended that indigent emergency cases should be treated by the city and county physician. There being no place belonging to the city, and with no properly endowed institution where deserving indigents could be properly cared for, the patients have now to be taken to the Queen's Hospital, where they are treated by the hospital staff. For such professional services, the city and county pays the sum of \$1.50 per day for each patient. It is claimed, on reliable authority, that indigents have been allowed to remain in this hospital for a month and other long periods when they could have been discharged as cured in from three to four days. The conclusion to be drawn from such a state of affairs is better understood than explained.

### Emergency Contagious Disease Hospital.

There is also no city and county hospital for the care of those suffering from contagious diseases where immediate medical relief could be given. This is a deplorable condition, as the following case will show: On the 18th of February last, two Filipinos arrived in Honolulu from Kauai, both suffering from contagious disease. They were without money and destitute. They applied to the city and county physician for relief, which could not be given, for the reason above stated. They had to be practically left on the street. Their condition was such that they should have been detained at the island from whence they came, but without Territorial control over such matters, they were passed on to Honolulu.

### Increase in Immigration.

With the increase of immigration to the islands the number of indigents will also be increased. Honolulu being the main port of call for trans-Pacific steamers, and the only city of importance with growing attractions for the foreign element, it can be safely expected that this community will be made the Mecca for all such Territorial undesirable. It would be, therefore, unjust to saddle this burden on the city and county. The expense of caring for these people should rest with the Territory at large, the city and county attending to the wants of their direct local charges.

### Proposed Decrease in Sanitation Cost.

By turning over all matters of sanitation to the Territorial board of health, such as the inspection of meats, dairies, fish, cattle, swine, sheep, fruits and vegetables, the public markets; the disposition and collection of garbage and operation of incinerator; cars of the Territorial indigent sick, etc., much duplication of present sanitation work would be prevented relieving both the Territory and the city and county of much expense. During 1911, the cost of the sanitary inspectors (the sum of \$12,939.33 and for the care of indigents at the Queen's Hospital an additional amount of \$13,465.50. With a comparatively small increase in the present operating staff of the Territorial board of health, all the above duties could be undertaken in line with its general work. By the centralization of control, as above outlined, \$10,000 at

least could be saved annually to the taxpayers.

### Fish Inspector.

The number of fish claimed to have been inspected by the local fish inspector during 1911 was 3,982,554, of which it was further reported that 537,477 were iced fish. The stupendous task of counting such a number of fish accomplished no purpose whatever, and was a gross waste of time.

### WEEKLY WEATHER BULLETIN.

For the week ending April 6, 1912.  
Honolulu, T. H., April 8, 1912.

### General Summary.

The rainfall was below the average for the week at all stations having a record of ten or more years on the Islands of Molokai, Kauai and Oahu, and in the Puna, Kau and North Kona and portions of the North Hilo and South Hilo districts of Hawaii. In the North Kohala and Hamakua and parts of the North Hilo and South Hilo districts of Hawaii, and in the Makawao and Waikuku districts of Maui the rainfall was above the average for the week.

The following are the total amounts of rainfall for the week, in inches, in the different districts of the several islands: Hawaii—North Kohala 2.06 to 2.22, Hamakua 3.03 to 4.23, North Hilo 3.19 to 7.71, South Hilo 2.27 to 8.23, Puna 1.09 to 2.71, Kau 0.09, and North Kona 0.79; Maui—Makawao 2.67 to 3.96, Hana 0.53 to 1.34, Waikuku 0.84 to 1.57, and Lahaina 0.21; Oahu—Koolauloa 0.32, Koolapoko 0.15 to 0.39, Honolulu 0.13 to 2.40, Ewa trace, Waianae 0.22, and Waialua 0.16; Kauai—Hanalei 0.29, Lihue 0.45, and Waimea 0.09; and Molokai—Molokai 0.57.

The following are the departures from the average for the week, in inches, in the several districts: Hawaii—North Kohala +0.66 to +0.93, Hamakua +1.07 to +2.23, North Hilo -0.48 to +4.48, South Hilo -0.69 to +0.27, Puna -0.83, Kau -0.95 to 1.03, and North Kona -0.33; Maui—Makawao +0.89, Hana -2.99, Waikuku +\$5.1 to +0.89, and Lahaina -0.12; Oahu—Koolauloa -0.49, Koolapoko -0.60 to -0.63, Honolulu -1.62 to -0.49, Ewa -0.25, Waianae -0.13, and Waialua -0.33; Kauai—Hanalei -1.13, and Waimea -0.34; and Molokai—Molokai -0.12.

The mean temperatures were 1.0 deg. to 2.4 deg. higher than those of last week on Molokai, in the Hanalei district of Maui, the Waianae, Ewa and Honolulu and southern portion of the Koolapoko districts of Oahu, and in the South Hilo and North Kona and eastern part of the Puna districts of Hawaii. Generally elsewhere the mean temperatures were lower than those of the preceding week, yet there was but one station with a deficiency greater than 1.0 deg.

The following table gives the weekly averages of temperature and rainfall for the principal islands and for the group:

	Temperature.	Rainfall.
Hawaii	68.6 deg.	3.16 inches
Maui	68.5 deg.	1.44 inches
Oahu	71.9 deg.	0.65 inch
Kauai	70.8 deg.	0.28 inch
Molokai	68.9 deg.	0.57 inch

Entire group, 69.5 deg. 1.89 inches

At the local office of the United States Weather Bureau in Honolulu partly cloudy and cloudy weather obtained, with traces of rainfall on four dates and measurable amounts on two, totaling 0.13 inch, 0.49 below the normal, and 0.41 less than the previous week's. The maximum temperature was 78 deg., minimum 66 deg., and mean 71.8 deg., 0.9 deg. lower than normal, and 1.9 deg. higher than last week's. The mean daily relative humidity varied from 60 deg. to 71 deg., and the mean for the week was 65.9 deg. Northerly winds prevailed on each day of the week, with an average hourly velocity of 12.1 miles—a high average. The mean daily barometer ranged from 30.19 to 30.16 inches, and the mean for the week, 30.12, was 0.10 inch above normal.

### THOMAS SQUARE CONCERT.

The band will play the following program at Thomas Square at 7:30 this evening:

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Lakaro Overture, Light Cavalry...Suppe  
Ballad, The Holy City...Adams  
Selection, Jerusalem...Verdi  
Vocal, Regina Coeli...Ar. by Berger  
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